

# TOM LEA MONTHLY CELEBRATION PARTICIPANTS AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## ❖ WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009

*Conquistador*, Branson Library. Courtesy NMSU



### \* Branson and Zuhl Libraries, New Mexico State University Las Cruces, NM

Visit Tom Lea Murals in the Branson Library at New Mexico State University, completed in 1934 for “the A and M library in Mesilla” as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Old Mesilla, illustrates scenes relevant to the town’s history such as the Gadsden

Purchase and agricultural fields; Conquistadores explores New Mexico history, touching on DeVargas, the Conquest, the Pueblo revolt of 1680, and the Reconquest.

Also on view at the kiosks in Branson and Zuhl Libraries will be an excerpt from a 1996 interview with Tom Lea in his El Paso studio.

Library Hours: Mon–Wed 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; Thurs–Fri 7 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat 12 noon–6 p.m.; Sun 12 noon–10 p.m.

### Tom Lea University Session – Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (HRC) and Tom Lea Room

**10 a.m.–12 noon** \$45 for the session. (\$200 per individual/\$350 per couple for series)

Adair Margo will lead a special visit to the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (HRC) at the University of Texas at Austin for a tour of The Tom Lea collection with Peter Mears, Associate Curator, Art Collection. The Tom Lea collection was donated to the Ransom Center by Tom and Sarah Lea in June 1976 and contains 139 separate works of art, including oil portraits, watercolors, pastels, ink drawings, and mural designs. In addition to portraits and landscapes there are complete sets of drawings used to illustrate many of his books.

*Make your own travel arrangements.* For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

## ❖ THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009

### Tom Lea University Session – Tom Lea and Texas

The Tom Lea Institute, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton (corner of Stanton & Mills)

**5–7 p.m.** \$45 for the session. (\$200 per individual/\$350 per couple for series)

J.P. Bryan, sixth generation Texan, relative of Stephen F. Austin, and builder of one of Texas’ most significant collections will discuss Tom Lea’s historic contributions to Texas with Bill Wittliff, renowned publisher, photographer, producer and screenwriter of the classic Lonesome Dove miniseries.

For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

### Sketch in the Tom Lea Gallery – El Paso Museum of Art

**5–8 p.m.** Free to the public.

Enjoy a rare opportunity: sketch in the El Paso Museum of Art Tom Lea Gallery under the guidance of a professional artist. No skill is required, just a desire to be creative in an inspiring environment. At each of five sessions (July 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th), the first 30 minutes will be dedicated to discussing Tom Lea’s techniques, composition, and style. Participants will then sketch from Tom Lea’s paintings on display in the gallery that bears his name.

For information call Tracy Fontenot, El Paso Museum of Art, (915) 532-1707.

## ❖ TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

Tom Lea with sketches for the Federal Courthouse murals. Courtesy of UTEP Special Collections, C. E. Waterhouse papers.



### \*Tom Lea at Work, photographs by C.E. Waterhouse UTEP Library

**Reception: 5 p.m.** (3rd floor gallery)

C.E. (“Bill”) Waterhouse, a close personal friend of Tom Lea’s, was a gifted artist whose work Lea admired. He documented Tom Lea working on his greatest work of the 1930’s, including the El Paso Federal Courthouse’s Pass of the North mural. Waterhouse also took photographs of Lea’s models for Pass of the North posing in Hollywood costumes in the El Paso desert.

Library Hours: Mon–Thurs 7 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Fri 7 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun 12 noon–1 a.m.

For information call Claudia Rivers, UTEP Library (915) 747-6725.

## ❖ THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009

### Tom Lea University Session – Tom Lea Memories

The Tom Lea Institute, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton (corner of Stanton & Mills)

**5–7 p.m.** \$45 for the session.

Beloved El Paso poet and historian, Mardee de Wetter, and renowned cartoonist of the Archie Comic Book, Tom Moore, will share memories of growing up in El Paso with Tom Lea as a family friend.

For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

### Sketch in the Tom Lea Gallery – El Paso Museum of Art

**5–8 p.m.** Free to the public.

*Refer to July 2nd listing.*

## ❖ FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009

Study for “*The Nesters*”. Drawing on Paper. Adair Margo Fine Art.



### \* Tom Lea’s 1936 drawings from “The Nesters” Mural Adair Margo Fine Art, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton, Suite 602

**Reception 11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

Opening of “*The Nesters*,” drawings completed by Tom Lea in 1936 in preparation for a mural done for the west entrance lobby of the Benjamin Franklin Postal Station on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Lea completed the studies, as well as the 11’6” x 6’ mural on canvas, in his studio on Texas Street in El Paso. Tom Lea wrote about the commission in his autobiography, *A Picture Gallery*, Boston: Little Brown, 1968:

“*The first mural I painted at the Hill Building was a panel for the Post Office Department Building in Washington, a commission received by winning a national competition held under the auspices of the Section of Fine Arts, Treasury Department, a government agency then recently established to provide mural and sculptural ornament in new federal buildings throughout the nation. The winning of this competition was the first nonlocal recognition I had ever received. It came at a time when it was a great help, spiritually and financially. I painted a plowman breaking dry, bare earth. Standing by the furrow was his young wife, looking at the motionless windmill, at the homesteader’s shack where they lived, and at the empty horizon. I called it “The Nesters.” I think it may be the first mature work I achieved; it was painted when I was almost thirty years old.*”

Gallery Hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Exhibition on view through July.

### \*El Paso Museum of Art, Ginger Francis Activity Room

COVER IMAGE: Woman from “*The Nesters*”, Drawing on Paper, 9’ 6” x 4’ 5”. El Paso Museum of Art, Ginger Francis Activity Room

Drawings from “*The Nesters*” including the 9’ 6” study for the woman (see cover image). A 15 minute interview conducted in the artist’s studio on Savannah Street in 1994 will be run continually on a loop.

Museum Hours: Tues., Wed, Fri, Sat 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Thurs 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Sat 12 noon–5 p.m.

## ❖ THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009

*Death of the Wasp*, 1942, Oil on Canvas, 22” x 40”. U.S. Army Center for Military History, Washington, D.C.



### Tom Lea University Session – Tom Lea and World War II The Tom Lea Institute, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton (corner of Stanton & Mills)

**5–7 p.m.** \$45 for the session.

Brendan (Mac) Greeley, USMC (ret), editor of *The Two Thousand Yard Stare*, *Tom Lea’s World War II* (Texas A&M Press, 2008) will provide a view of Lea’s private diaries, photographs, writing and painting as a civilian artist correspondent for *Life Magazine* during the second World War.

BG (ret) Richard Behrenhausen will also share footage of Tom

Lea recorded by the Cantigney First Infantry Division Museum in which he gives first hand accounts of his wartime experiences.

For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

### Sketch in the Tom Lea Gallery – El Paso Museum of Art

**5–8 p.m.** Free to the public.

*Refer to July 2nd listing.*

## ❖ FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009

Tom Lea on Peleliu Island with the 7th USMC Regiment, September 16, 1944.



### Tom Lea and World War II Special Presentation at Fort Bliss

**1 p.m.** Sponsored by Raytheon. The Fort Bliss and Air Defense Artillery Museum, 1735 Marshall Road (next to the commissary) For questions call: Peter Poessiger 568-3390.

Brendan (Mac) Greeley, USMC (ret), will share how he met Tom Lea in El Paso and wrote about Lea’s World War II experiences for journals, leading to his editing of *The Two Thousand Yard Stare*, *Tom Lea’s World War II*. With a sketchbook, Tom Lea went aboard a Navy destroyer in the North Atlantic in 1941; was on the carrier Hornet in 1942; traveled to England, North Africa and China in 1943; and hit the beaches of Peleliu with the 1st Marines in 1944. Few people were eyewitnesses to the war from as many perspectives as Lea and Greeley will show photographs and artwork of what Lea saw and experienced. The C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department of the University of Texas at El Paso will present a display of Tom Lea photographs from China, Life Magazines, and special edition books.

## ❖ SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2009

“*Southwest*”, Mural at the El Paso Public Library



### Creative Writing Workshop inspired by Tom Lea’s mural Southwest El Paso Museum of Art

**10 a.m.–12 noon** Free to the public. Sponsored by MCAD. Bring paper and writing materials.

Donna Snyder, accomplished writer and practicing attorney, will guide participants through the act of writing in response to visual art, focusing on using vivid visual imagery to make writing more compelling. Participants will write and then read their new work aloud. Ms. Snyder is the founder and coordinator of the Tumblewords Project, presenting free writing workshops in the border community for 14 years.

For information call Socorro Diamondstein, Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) (915) 541-4167.

## ❖ SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009

### “Your El Paso Story” Family Workshop – El Paso Museum of Art

**1–3 p.m.**

Tom Lea told stories through his artwork and writing. Bring your family to the El Paso Museum of Art to see Tom Lea’s work on display, and learn how he used light and subject to tell a story. Then work together with your family members to incorporate what you learn and create “Your El Paso Story” artwork.

For information call Tracy Fontenot, El Paso Museum of Art (915) 532-1707.

## ❖ THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009

### Tom Lea University Session – Tom Lea’s Novels

The Tom Lea Institute, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton (corner of Stanton & Mills)

**5–7 p.m.** \$45 for the session.

Professor of American Literature at the University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Mimi Gladstein, will discuss Tom Lea in the context of Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck. \*(session shared with Cynthia Farah Haines)

For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

### Sketch in the Tom Lea Gallery – El Paso Museum of Art

**5–8 p.m.** Free to the public.

*Refer to July 2nd listing.*

## ❖ FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009

On the movie set of *The Wonderful Country*, Lea, as Peebles the barber, with actor Robert Mitchum, 1958. Courtesy El Paso Public Library.



### Tom Lea University Session – Tom Lea’s Movies The Tom Lea Institute, the Martin Building, 215 N. Stanton (corner of Stanton & Mills)

**5–7 p.m.** \$45 for the session.

Film critic, historian and scholar, Cynthia Farah Haines, will discuss the adaptation of literature to film and the challenges encountered, focusing on Tom Lea’s novels *The Brave Bulls* and *The Wonderful Country* \*(session shared with Dr. Mimi Gladstein).

For information call Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute (915) 533-0048.

## ❖ SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2009

### Creative Writing Workshop inspired by Tom Lea’s mural Southwest El Paso Public Library

**10 a.m.–12 noon** Free to the public. Bring paper and writing materials. 501 N. Oregon at the main entrance/Foyer.

*Refer to July 18th listing for program details.*

## ❖ SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2009

### Garden Party and Tom Lea Remembrances

The El Paso County Historical Society, Burges Home, 603 W. Yandell

**3–5 p.m.**

A repository for letters, magazines, books, and photographs documenting the life and work of Tom Lea, the El Paso County Historical Society will display selections from its collection in the Burges home while friends and acquaintances enjoy refreshments and share stories of Tom Lea in El Paso.

## ❖ WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009

### Unveiling of the Susan Magoffin maquette (model)

#### XII Travelers Memorial of the Southwest

Doubletree Hotel downtown

**5–7 p.m. Unveiling at 6 p.m.** Free to the public.

Inspired by Tom Lea’s Calendar of XII Travelers (1946), John Sherrill Houser and Ethan Taliesin Houser have created an outgoing sculptural memorial to the history of Paso del Norte. Magoffin is the third in the series and represents the Santa Fe/Chihuahua Trail.

## ❖ THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

Image courtesy of the collection of Charles Horak



### Special Showing of “The Brave Bulls” Philanthropy Theatre next to the Plaza Theatre

**5–7 p.m.** Free to the public.

Special showing of *The Brave Bulls*, starring Mel Ferrer and Miroslava Stern, adapted from the bestselling novel by Tom Lea. The world premiere of *The Brave Bulls* was held at the Plaza Theatre in 1951.

### Sketch in the Tom Lea Gallery – El Paso Museum of Art

**5–8 p.m.**

*Refer to July 2nd listing.*

\* Exhibits on view during regular hours throughout July.

# TOM LEA MONTH